

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LITERATURNAYA GAZETA (ALMOST) ADMITS CORVALAN-
BUKOVSKIY EXCHANGE

1. THE LATEST ISSUE OF LITGAZ (DECEMBER 22) BECAME THE
FIRST SOVIET PUBLICATION TO MAKE AN EXPLICIT CONNECTION
BETWEEN THE RELEASE OF CORVALAN AND BUKOVSKIY IN LANGUAGE
PRACTICALLY ADMITTING SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN A "DEAL".

2. A BRIEF UNSIGNED ARTICLE ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE
POLITICAL (SECOND) SECTION OF LITGAZ FIRST OFFERS THE
STANDARD VERSION OF CORVALAN'S RELEASE--THAT IT WAS THE
RESULT OF THE "STRENGTH AND FORCE OF WORLD SOCIALISM AND
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THE PUBLIC OPINION OF ALL PROGRESSIVE MANKIND." (SENIOR
PRAVDA COMMENTATOR VITALIY KORIONOV MAKES SAME STANDARD
PITCH, WITHOUT MENTION OF BUKOVSKIY, DECEMBER 23.)
LITGAZ CONTINUES, HOWEVER: "NOW, THE OPEN AND CONCEALED
ADMIRERS OF PINOCHET SEEK TO PRESENT THE AFFAIR AS
THOUGH THE RELEASE OF CORVALAN--WAS MERELY THE RESULT

OF A 'DEAL'; THAT HE WAS, SO TO SPEAK, SIMPLY EXCHANGED
FOR A 'DISSIDENT', OR, TO PUT IT MORE CLEARLY, FOR THE
ANTI-SOVIET BUKOVSKIY." "YES, AS WE HAVE LEARNED,
PINOCHEZ DID INDEED EXPRESS THROUGH REPRESENTATIVES OF
A 'THIRD POWER' HIS INTENSE DESIRE TO SECURE THIS PERSON.
THE ANTI-SOVIET ESSENCE OF BUKOVSKIY SHOWED THROUGH EVEN
MORE CLEARLY AS THE RESULT OF THE CHILEAN HANGMAN'S
ARDENT LOVE FOR HIM. THEY MUTUALLY EXPOSED EACH OTHER,
AS IT WERE. BUT THE ESSENTIAL MATTER LIES ELSEWHERE:
--IN THE FACT THAT THE GLORIOUS SON OF THE CHILEAN
PEOPLE, THE UNBENDING COMMUNIST, HAS FINALLY GAINED HIS
FREEDOM."

3. COMMENT. THE CAREFUL, LABORED FORMULATIONS OF LITGAZ
TRY TO REPRESENT THE MATTER AS ALMOST A COINCIDENCE: AS IF
PINOCHEZ'S DESIRE TO OBTAIN BUKOVSKIY'S RELEASE IN EXCHANGE
FOR CORVALAN "EXPRESSED THROUGH REPRESENTATIVES OF A THIRD
POWER", ACTUALLY HAD NO EFFECT ON MOSCOW'S INDEPENDENT
ACTION OF DECIDING TO RELEASE AND EXPEL BUKOVSKIY.. THE
SOPHISTICATED SOVIET READERS OF LITGAZ, THE USSR'S LEADING
INTELLECTUAL AND LITERARY WEEKLY, HOWEVER, CANNOT READ
THE ARTICLE AS OTHER THAN CLEAR ADMISSION BY THE
AUTHORITIES THAT THEY WERE IN FACT PARTIES TO A NEGOTIATED
EXCHANGE.
MATLOCK

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